

# **The AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS FOR ALL CATEGORIES.**

## **STATE (C240)**

The AMERICAN RECOVERY and REINVESTMENT (ARRA) ACT of 2009 was enacted on February 17, 2009 and the funds were made available on March 2, 2009. Within 120 days after apportionment to the State, 50% of apportioned funds must be obligated. Any portion of the apportioned funds that are not obligated will be withdrawn and redistributed to other states that have obligated their funds by the deadline. Within one year after apportionment to the State, the remainder apportioned funds must be obligated. Any portion of the remainder apportioned funds that is not obligated will be withdrawn and redistributed to other states that have obligated their funds by the deadline.

To meet these stringent provisions, the Nebraska Department of Roads used the following project priority criteria during the selection process to select projects located in EDAs:

- A.** Select eligible projects that will be completed within a three year period in NE
  - a. This amounted to a total of 79 projects.
  - b. Of these projects, 41 were selected for ARRA funding with consideration given for geographic distribution.
- B.** Select eligible projects that can be obligated within 120 days in EDAs. \*
  - a. This amounted to a total of 20 projects.
  - b. Of these projects, 20 were selected for ARRA funding.
- C.** Select eligible projects that can be obligated within 120 days in non-EDAs.
  - a. This amounted to a total of 14 projects.
  - b. Of these projects, 14 were selected for ARRA funding.
- D.** Select eligible projects that can be obligated within one year in EDAs. \*and non-EDAs.
  - a. This amounted to a total of 7 projects.
  - b. Of these projects, 5 were selected for ARRA funding in EDAs.

The selection criteria listed under A through D above is the order the ARRA projects are identified and selected. For the 120 day period, projects in EDAs are given priority over projects in non-EDAs. NDOR used March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 EDA map provided by FHWA at

<http://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/hepgis>

## LOCAL (C230)

**Lincoln:** The Lincoln Area MPO selected projects for ARRA funding based on two primary criteria. First, in accordance with the ARRA, priority was given to projects that could be obligated within the one year time period and could be completed within the three year time period. Second, projects were selected based on providing the broadest economic impact across the community. Once the projects were identified they were brought before the MPO Technical Committee for approval and then were forwarded to the Officials Committee with the recommendation for approval. The final MPO approved list of projects was then sent to NDOR and FHWA for concurrence and approval.

**(MAPA):** The MAPA Transportation Technical Committee (TTAC) completed the project selection process. The TTAC followed the same procedures to rank, prioritize and select ARRA-funded projects as they do to rank, prioritize and select STP-funded projects in the MPO. Decisions on which projects to fund with ARRA funds were based on the identification of the selected projects in the current Long Range Transportation Plan, the availability of funding, the ability to meet ARRA deadlines and requirements, and the equitable distribution of funds among the jurisdictions in the MAPA MPO.

All projects were selected based on the MAPA project selection process and forwarded to the MAPA Board of Directors for final approval. A complete, financially constrained list of those projects was then submitted to the Nebraska Department of Roads, FHWA and FTA for concurrence and approval

## LOCAL (C200)

Criteria Used by **League of Nebraska Municipalities** For Cities with Population between 5,000 and 199,999 not in Omaha Metro Area

Highest Priority Projects

1. Projects in an EDA that can be obligated within 180 days per NDOR analysis
2. Projects not in EDA that can be obligated within 180 days per NDOR analysis.

Projects in EDA:

1. From a municipality not already receiving funding in section 1 or 2.
2. Project must be less than 2.5 million dollars so remaining funds can be distributed in a broader fashion.
3. Project must have been submitted by deadlines established by the LNM.
4. Project must be clearly viable to make the 1 year obligation deadline.

Projects in EDA not funded pursuant to any prior section will be offered \$1.5 million if they can break project into smaller share or are able to fund remainder of project through other funds.

Remainder will be available for cost overruns on a first come first serve basis

## LOCAL (C250)

The **NACO** Executive Branch Committee of the NACO Board met numerous times to establish criteria for prioritizing county ARRA projects.

All 93 counties were asked to submit projects to NDOR for stimulus consideration. In order to be considered, each project must meet the ARRA requirements. 163 projects were submitted representing a total of \$117,000,000. Nebraska counties have been allocated \$9,990,000 in federal stimulus funds.

After many hours of debate and discussion, the committee adopted the following criteria for prioritizing stimulus projects.

The committee placed projects into 2 tiers. Tier 1 represents projects that are “shovel ready” and will be able to be “let” by the Nebraska Department of Roads within the timeframes dictated by ARRA. Tier 2 projects are those that are not eliminated and may be considered for stimulus funds if a project from Tier 1 is eliminated due to the inability to meet ARRA requirements (such as getting FHWA, USFW and NEPA clearance).

1. ARRA is intended to foster immediate economic stimulus, therefore, projects are deemed Tier 1 if they are “shovel ready” and capable of immediate job creation.
2. Any project over one million dollars in estimated cost will carry a lower priority status than those less than one million dollars. This will allow the stimulus funds to be spread over a broader base of counties. This does not eliminate projects over one million dollars from funding if funds are available. Projects over one million dollars are placed in Tier 2.
3. If a county has multiple projects meeting stimulus requirements, those counties must rank their projects in order of their priority. If a county has multiple projects that are in the first two tiers and each project is under one million dollars, the committee will give consideration to the project the county has requested as a first choice.
4. Federally designated areas of economic distress, as indicated within the attached map, shall be taken into consideration when establishing project priorities.
5. ARRA funds will not be used for preliminary engineering or right-of-way phases.
6. ARRA funds used for construction will be capped at the award amount. Any overages beyond the award amount will be funded using other federal funds with local match or local county funds.
7. ARRA funds used for construction engineering will be capped at 13% of the award amount plus a flat fee of \$2500 for audits. Any overages will have to be funded by local county funds.

## **LOCAL (C220)**

The Transportation Enhancement Projects were prioritized by The Advisory Selection Committee for funding. Projects selected were in the process of going thru various approvals that meet FHWA criteria.